

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04555 211600Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0818

INFO ANDREWS AFB

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 4555

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (COSTA GOMES, FRANCISCO)

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT'S TREATMENT AT JFK AIRPORT

A/AIRA TALKED WITH LTCOL. JORGE GOMES LOPES ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AS AIRCRAFT COMMANDER AND PILOT OF THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE BOEING 707 CARRYING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. HE SAID HIS RECEPTION IN NEW YORK WAS NOT GOOD AND THAT HE AND THE CREW HAD BEEN TREATED AS IF THEY WERE A CIVILIAN AIRLINER. SPECIFICALLY, HE SAID THE AIRCRAFT WAS SEARCHED, CARGO INVENTORIED, AND LATER AT PASSPORT CONTROL ALL THOSE TRAVELING ON NATO ORDERS WERE TOLD THE STAMPS WERE INCORRECTLY PLACED AND THAT THEY COULD NOT PROCEED. ALL LUGGAGE WAS INSPECTED AT CUSTOMS. PRIOR TO LANDING THE AIRCRAFT HAD TO CIRCLE JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR OVER ONE HOUR. THIS DELAY AND THE DELAYS CAUSED BY CUSTOMS AND PASSPORT CONTROLS DID NOT ALLOW PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' LUGGAGE TIME TO GET TO HIS ROOM IN TIME FOR HIM TO CHANGE INTO EVENING DRESS FOR THE DINNER GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM. ASKED ABOUT ANDREWS AFB, LTCOL. LOPES SAID THINGS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER.

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